THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The suggestions had been considered and a reply was sent to the Committee.

The status paper on the Indian Railways was issued to gather public opinion, and the responses received will form inputs for long term policy formulation.

**Development of Elaveezha Poonchira in Kerala**

2905. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal to develop Elaveezha Poonchira a hill resort near Melukavu in Kottayam district in Kerala;

(b) the total amount of allocation made for the purpose; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

**Development of Erumely in Kottayam, Kerala**

2906. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Erumely in Kottayam district of Kerala is a pilgrimage centre visited by lakhs of people from all over India and abroad every year;

(b) the number of tourists visit these every year;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the lack of facilities to contain the huge crowd which increases year by year;

(d) whether the Government propose to declare it as an international tourist-pilgrimage centre and allocate financial assistance to uplift and develop the place; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Erumely is an important pilgrim centre in Kerala. The relevant statistics regarding the number of tourists visiting the centre are not available from the State Government.

(c) to (e). The Ministry has no scheme for declaring any place as an international tourist centre. The development of any place for tourist is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. However, the Central Government extends some financial assistance to the State Governments on the basis of specific proposals received from them, subject to the availability of funds and interse priorities. State Government of Kerala have not proposed any scheme for development of Erumely during 1991-92.

[*Translation*]

**Palace on Wheels**

2907. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign tourists travelled by 'Palace on Wheels' train during the last three years, the income earned therefrom, year-wise and the total expenditure incurred thereon;

(b) the names of the stations through which it passes;